

Serial No.: 09/470,041

Title: Initiation of Bidding in a Virtual Trade
Financial Environment

In reply to Office action mailed: March 24, 2003

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Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims without prejudice, as follows and consider the subsequent remarks/arguments. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

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GROUP 3600

Claims 1-18 (Canceled)

19. (New) A method for a virtual trade financial framework, comprising the steps of:
establishing an agreement between a buyer and a seller for trading purposes;
receiving a terms form indicating at least one of terms and conditions of the buyer;
checking a credit of the buyer with a third party based on the terms form;
providing the seller with the terms form and an indication as to available credit of the buyer;
receiving from the seller a response to the terms form and indication;
forwarding a response of the seller to the buyer;
receiving initiation and payment documents utilizing a network;
receiving secondary documents selected from the group consisting of an insurance certificate, inspection certificate, certificate of origin, invoice/declaration, counselor's invoice, sanction and boycott declaration, packing list, weight list, lab test report, and beneficiary certificate; and
sending the secondary documents to a bank to be checked, wherein the buyer accesses the secondary documents via the bank.
20. (New) The method as recited in claim 19, and further comprising the step of authenticating an identity of the buyer prior to receiving the terms form.
21. (New) The method as recited in claim 20, wherein the identity is authenticated by requiring the buyer to submit an identifier and a password.
22. (New) The method as recited in claim 19, and further comprising the step of storing, indexing, and matching the secondary documents.
23. (New) The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the initiation and payment documents include a combined purchase order proforma invoice.

24. (New) The method as recited in claim 19, and further comprising the step of requesting the seller to become a registered member of the framework.

25. (New) The method as recited in claim 19, and further comprising the step of finalizing the agreement after forwarding the response of the seller to the buyer.

26. (New) The method as recited in claim 19, and further comprising the step of submitting a detail form to a plurality of buyers that provides details on at least one of products and services available from a plurality of sellers in order to prompt the submission of at least one bid on the at least one of products and services.

27. (New) The method as recited in claim 26, and further comprising the step of receiving the at least one bid from the buyers utilizing a network.

28. (New) The method as recited in claim 27, and further comprising the step of categorizing the at least one bid based on a predetermined criteria.

29. (New) The method as recited in claim 28, wherein the step of categorizing the at least one bid includes ranking or segmenting the bids.

30. (New) The method as recited in claim 28, wherein the criteria includes at least one of geography and product category.

31. (New) The method as recited in claim 28, and further comprising the step of displaying the at least one bid categorized to the sellers utilizing the network.

32. (New) The method as recited in claim 26, and further comprising the step of receiving at least one offer from at least one of the sellers, utilizing the network, in response to the at least one bid.

33. (New) The method as recited in claim 32, and further comprising the step of displaying the at least one offer to the buyers.

34. (New) The method as recited in claim 26, and further comprising the step of closing transactions between the buyers and the sellers utilizing the network.

35. (New) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for a virtual trade financial framework, comprising:

- a code segment for establishing an agreement between a buyer and a seller for trading purposes;
- a code segment for receiving a terms form indicating at least one of terms and conditions of the buyer;
- a code segment for checking a credit of the buyer with a third party based on the terms form;
- a code segment for providing the seller with the terms form and an indication as to available credit of the buyer;
- a code segment for receiving from the seller a response to the terms form and indication;
- a code segment for forwarding a response of the seller to the buyer;
- a code segment for receiving initiation and payment documents utilizing a network;
- a code segment for receiving secondary documents selected from the group consisting of an insurance certificate, inspection certificate, certificate of origin, invoice/declaration, counselor's invoice, sanction and boycott declaration, packing list, weight list, lab test report, and beneficiary certificate; and
- a code segment for sending the secondary documents to a bank to be checked, wherein the buyer accesses the secondary documents via the bank.

36. (New) The computer program as recited in claim 35, and further comprising a code segment for authenticating an identity of the buyer prior to receiving the terms form.

37. (New) The computer program as recited in claim 36, wherein the identity is authenticated by requiring the buyer to submit an identifier and a password.

38. (New) The computer program as recited in claim 35, and further comprising a code segment for storing, indexing and matching the secondary documents.

39. (New) The computer program as recited in claim 35, wherein the initiation and payment documents include a combined purchase order proforma invoice.

40. (New) The computer program as recited in claim 35, and further comprising a code segment for requesting the seller to become a registered member of the framework.

41. (New) The computer program as recited in claim 35, and further comprising a code segment for finalizing the agreement after forwarding the response of the seller to the buyer.

42. (New) The computer program as recited in claim 35, and further comprising a code segment for submitting a detail form to a plurality of buyers that provides details on at least one of products and services available from a plurality of sellers in order to prompt the submission of at least one bid on the at least one of products and services.

43. (New) The computer program as recited in claim 42, and further comprising a code segment for receiving the at least one bid from the buyers utilizing a network.

44. (New) The computer program as recited in claim 43, and further comprising a code segment for categorizing the at least one bid based on a predetermined criteria.

45. (New) The computer program as recited in claim 44, wherein the step of categorizing the bids includes ranking or segmenting the bids.

46. (New) The computer program as recited in claim 44, wherein the criteria includes at least one of geography and product category.

47. (New) The computer program as recited in claim 44, and further comprising a code segment for displaying the at least one bid categorized to the sellers utilizing the network.

48. (New) The computer program as recited in claim 42, and further comprising a code segment for receiving at least one offer from at least one of the sellers, utilizing the network, in response to the at least one bid.

49. (New) The computer program as recited in claim 48, and further comprising a code segment for displaying the at least one offer to the buyers.

50. (New) The computer program as recited in claim 42, and further comprising a code segment for closing transactions between the buyers and the sellers utilizing the network.

51. (New) A system for a virtual trade financial framework, comprising:
 - logic for establishing an agreement between a buyer and a seller for trading purposes;
 - logic for receiving a terms form indicating at least one of terms and conditions of the buyer;
 - logic for checking a credit of the buyer with a third party based on the terms form;
 - logic for providing the seller with the terms form and an indication as to available credit of the buyer;
 - logic for receiving from the seller a response to the terms form and indication;
 - logic for forwarding a response of the seller to the buyer;
 - logic for receiving initiation and payment documents utilizing a network;
 - logic for receiving secondary documents selected from the group consisting of an insurance certificate, inspection certificate, certificate of origin, invoice/declaration, counselor's invoice, sanction and boycott declaration, packing list, weight list, lab test report, and beneficiary certificate; and
 - logic for sending the secondary documents to a bank to be checked, wherein the buyer accesses the secondary documents via the bank.
52. (New) The system for as recited in claim 51, and further comprising logic for authenticating an identity of the buyer prior to receiving the terms form.
53. (New) The system as recited in claim 52, wherein the identity is authenticated by requiring the buyer to submit an identifier and a password.
54. (New) The system as recited in claim 51, and further comprising logic for storing, indexing and matching the secondary documents.
55. (New) The system as recited in claim 51, wherein the initiation and payment documents include a combined purchase order proforma invoice.
56. (New) The system as recited in claim 51, and further comprising logic for requesting the seller to become a registered member of the framework.
57. (New) The system as recited in claim 51, and further comprising logic for finalizing the agreement after forwarding a response of the seller to the buyer.

58. (New) The system as recited in claim 51, and further comprising logic for submitting a detail form to a plurality of buyers that provides details on at least one of products and services available from a plurality of sellers in order to prompt the submission of at least one bid on the at least one of products and services.

59. (New) The system as recited in claim 58, and further comprising logic for receiving the at least one bid from the buyers utilizing a network.

60. (New) The system as recited in claim 59, and further comprising logic for categorizing the at least one bid based on a predetermined criteria.

61. (New) The system as recited in claim 60, wherein the step of categorizing the at least one bid includes ranking or segmenting the at least one bid.

62. (New) The system as recited in claim 60, wherein the criteria includes at least one of geography and product category.

63. (New) The system as recited in claim 60, and further comprising logic for displaying the at least one bid categorized to the sellers utilizing the network.

64. (New) The system as recited in claim 58, and further comprising logic for receiving at least one offer from at least one of the sellers, utilizing the network, in response to the at least one bid.

65. (New) The system as recited in claim 64, and further comprising logic for displaying the at least one offer to the buyers.

66. (New) The system as recited in claim 58, and further comprising logic for closing transactions between the buyers and the sellers utilizing the network.